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INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

MINISTER WANTED

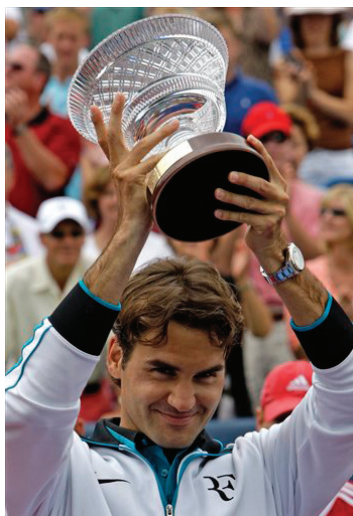


In this Nov. 26, 2008 file photo, Pakistani Taliban deputy Hakimullah Mehsud is seen in Orakzai tribal region of Pakistan. Mehsud has been appointed the new head of the militant group, media reports said Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009.

See International News on Page B7

SPORTS NEWS

FEDERER IN-FORM



Roger Federer, from Switzerland, holds up the championship trophy after defeating Novak Djokovic, from Serbia, 6-1, 7-5 at the Cincinnati Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009, in Mason, Ohio.

See Sports Today on Page B10

Aruba International Pro-Am Golf Tournament dines under the stars

WESTPUNT – Tierra del Sol Golf Course played host to the Aruba International Pro-Am Golf Tournament serving a sizzling barbeque under the stars at the conclusion of the first day of competition. Golfers helped themselves to delicious fresh salads, chased by Lobster Bisque and an island Barbeque pairing ribs, chicken and Salmon in orange marinade with corn on the cob, Caribbean rice, and tropical cakes for dessert.

Continued on Page 5



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The "card" pays at the Crystal and Seaport Casino



ORANJESTAD - For a couple of weeks now every Thursday, the Crystal and Seaport Casino is giving out \$4300 dollar cash and 2 weekend stays per month, so that the winner can enjoy the luxurious Renaissance resort. To participate just be at the players center and register for "the card" with every 25 points accumulated you get a raffle ticket to participate. On August 20th, Crystal Casino got to know their 8 new

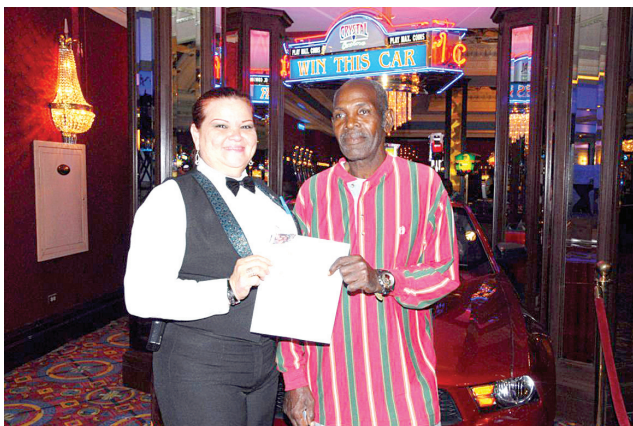


winners who all participated with the card. Cash prizes were one in the amount of Afl. 250.00, Afl. 500.00, Afl. 1000.00, Afl. 2000.00 and Afl. 3000.00 all are in Aruban florins.

The happy winners were Ronald Jesus Heyer, Agnauar Yanskieve, Ceryl Ellidge y Lourdes Matig who all won Afl. 250.00, Donicio Vrolijk went home with Afl. 500.00, Margaretha Kuiperdal with Afl. 1000.00, Natasha Zedan with Afl. 2000.00- and Ana Croes with the grand prize of Afl. 3000.00. And the fabulous weekend stay was won by Hilaria

Viscaino Chaves.

All winners were happy with their prizes and know that Crystal and Seaport Casino are the casinos that pay the most. Next draw will be on August 27th, 2009 be there so you to have the chance to be a happy winner. □



Musical bands Acoustic Soul, Prive and Tsunami

Preparing for the famous Food Festival at Renaissance Marketplace

Saturday 29 August starting at 6pm in the afternoon until 11pm at night



ORANJESTAD — Renaissance Marketplace is well-known for its Food Festival which is organized every other month. On the 29th of August Renaissance Marketplace will host another Food festival which is guaranteed to be very dynamic with special offers at restaurants and boutiques. The shops will be open until late in the evening and will have amazing discount prices for all shoppers. The Bars and Restaurants will be open for families to sit and dine and have a bite from the special menus, all while they enjoy the great musical performances of the bands. There will be the now famous 'Kids Corner' managed by the MetaCare ladies to keep the kids entertained while parents relax.

The Kids Corner will have a Dino Jump, balloons, Popcorn & Cotton Candy, Face painting, Arts & Crafts and much more; this time around we have made use of the vacant spaces especially for the Kids Corner. To make the evening even more amusing there will be performances on three different stages by Acoustic Soul, Prive and Tsunami. Events organized by Renaissance Marketplace are known to pull big crowds so come early. □

MONDAY'S CRAB NIGHT



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Caesar salad with fresh Caribbean shrimp and Mandarin orange slices
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For summer 2010 in addition to the weekly flights from Gatwick

New weekly flights to Aruba from Manchester, UK

ORANJESTAD - The Aruba Tourism Authority is happy to announce additional flights from Manchester, UK by Thomson Airlines. Sun-seekers from north-west England can now discover the Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba right from their doorstep with the

introduction of convenient new weekly direct flights from May 2010.

Thomson Airways will operate the new weekly service to Aruba from Manchester on Fridays from May 7 – October 23, replacing the existing fortnightly service.

This flight is in addition to the weekly direct Gatwick service, which was successfully introduced for summer 2009 and will depart on Saturdays from May 1 – October 23, 2010. The London Gatwick and Manchester flights are available for travellers

booking their Aruba holiday with Thomson Faraway Shores, Thomson Platinum Collection, Thomson Weddings, Thomson Chic & Unique, Thomson A La Carte and First Choice Tropical, First Choice Premier and First Choice Wedding brochures.

The Aruba Tourism Authority has been active in the English market for a few years and these increased flights are testament to a well thought out and executed strategy and investment plan. The initial fortnightly charter flights by First Choice started in 2003 and now we are very pleased to have these flights become weekly from both Gatwick (2009) and Manchester (2010) due to excellent results.

Myrna Jansen-Feliciano, Managing Director Aruba Tourism Authority commented; “We are delighted with the news of the new summer weekly charter from Manchester. This shows that Thomson’s confidence in Aruba as tourism destination is so strong that they have continued with this additional flight even during these tough economic times. We both we are confident that Aruba will deliver an excellent vacation experience to our visitors.” □



Sensational Summer Spree of Prizes

WINNERS

of raffle #7, August 20th, 2009

Anna Croes	Afl 3000,-
Natasha Zedan	Afl 2000,-
Margaretha Kuiperdal	Afl 1000,-
Dionicio Vrolijk	Afl 500,-
Lourdes Matig-a	Afl 250,-
Ceryl Ellidge	Afl 250,-
Agnuar Yanskieve	Afl 250,-
Ronald Jesus Heyer	Afl 250,-

congratulations

next raffle will take place August 27, 2009 at Seaport Casino

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Aruba International Pro-Am Golf Tournament dines under the stars



Continued from Front Page

The party was hosted by the Aruba Tourism Authority and Tierra del Sol golf course, home of the tournament for the past 15 years.

Pictured here teams of 10 different

nationalities enjoying Aruba's hospitality and world-class golf, in the relaxed and casual club-house garden area, savouring the cuisine of Ventanas del Mar restaurant.



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- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

Entrée

- **Fresh Catch of the Day** prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
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- **Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast**

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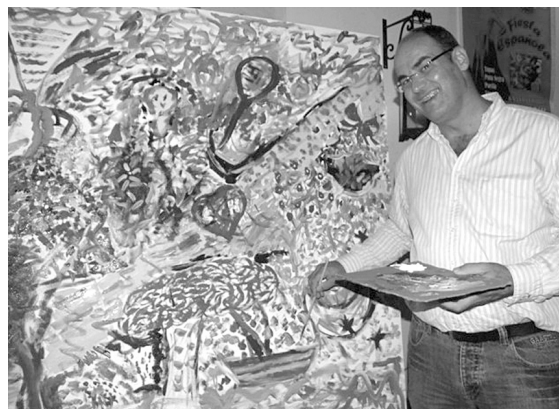
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Dinner, wines and paint combined

Artists unite at 'Friends of Arion' event at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - Casa Tua action last Friday, when an Barcelona was the place of event called 'La Face Cachée



de la Lune' took place. Named after the new moon that peeped out of the night sky, the evening was an ode to great wines, good food and the emergence of the inner artist that each of us has hidden inside. The result was a fun evening and a most interesting canvas, painted by the guests. The work of art will be hung high on the wall and when that wall is filled up with paintings, there will be an auction for a good cause. Chef David Nataf had concocted an elaborate menu, which consisted of a Mise en Bouche (steak tartare on a bed of truffle flavored

puree), a zucchini mousse appetizer, grouper with porcini mushrooms, grilled tenderloin with cauliflower gratin and a hot Tarte Tatin with vanilla ice cream as dessert. The various courses were accompanied and enhanced by a Marqués de Cáceres Rioja from Spain, a Domaine Neumeyer Riesling 'Les Hospices' from France, a Louis Latour Beaujolais-Villages 'Chameroy' from France, a Tenuta di Arceno Chianti Classico from Italy and a Pavois d'Or Sauternes from France. As dancing commenced between the courses to rousing Cuban music, the

virgin canvas in Casa Tua Barcelona restaurant started to come alive with bright colors and bold strokes of the paint brush. The joint venture of the diners took shape and changed its look every time as the communal effort neared completion. It was a riveting experience. When the evening came to an end and the last bottles released their superb wines, guests agreed with the subtitle of the Arion/Casa Tua menu: 'What is better than to sit at the end of the day and dine and drink wine with friends?' We can tell you that nothing beats that! ☐

Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes. Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable reservations email us at info@buccaneeraruba.com or call 586-6172 Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm



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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11 pm
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to
make reservations, please
call 586-4686. ☐



The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars

Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa just added another charming dining option, a tropical outdoor courtyard, featuring delicious cuisine under the stars.

The famed French Steakhouse prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited

the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting.

The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties.

Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd pleasers.



True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly-decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon. Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining

room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia, just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of your favorite song.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. www.manchebo.com/steakhouse



Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors, at a reasonable price. The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico a three-course dinner featuring appetizers, main courses and desserts for just \$19.95, per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between home made soup and Caesar salad, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese or any favorite pizza with Tiramisu, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream for the sweet finale.

Posing with Angelo the Italian maitre D' at Giorgio's, Mr and Mrs. Klaus, from Pennsylvania, 2nd time repeaters in Aruba at the Manchebo, the trip was a birthday present from him to her and since they are celebrating their 40th anniversary in November, they are already thinking about coming back, they enjoyed Menu Turistico and recommend it wholeheartedly! □

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa deserves recognition as the home of Beach Cuisine.

Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace,

raising the bar to a must-visit, must-try status.

The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair. From Sun-Sational Salads, to Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical &

frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

The Pega Pega, one of Aruba's oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □





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Sanctum Events presented: WE LOVE NEW YORK...



This event took place on Saturday August 22nd 2009 @ CONFESSION NIGHT CLUB with all the flavor of NYC right here on Aruba. Featuring: New York City's #1 Progressive House DJ!!! Jason Jollins - New York (USA). Since the late 1990's, Jason Jollins has been on the forefront of the progressive house movement in New York

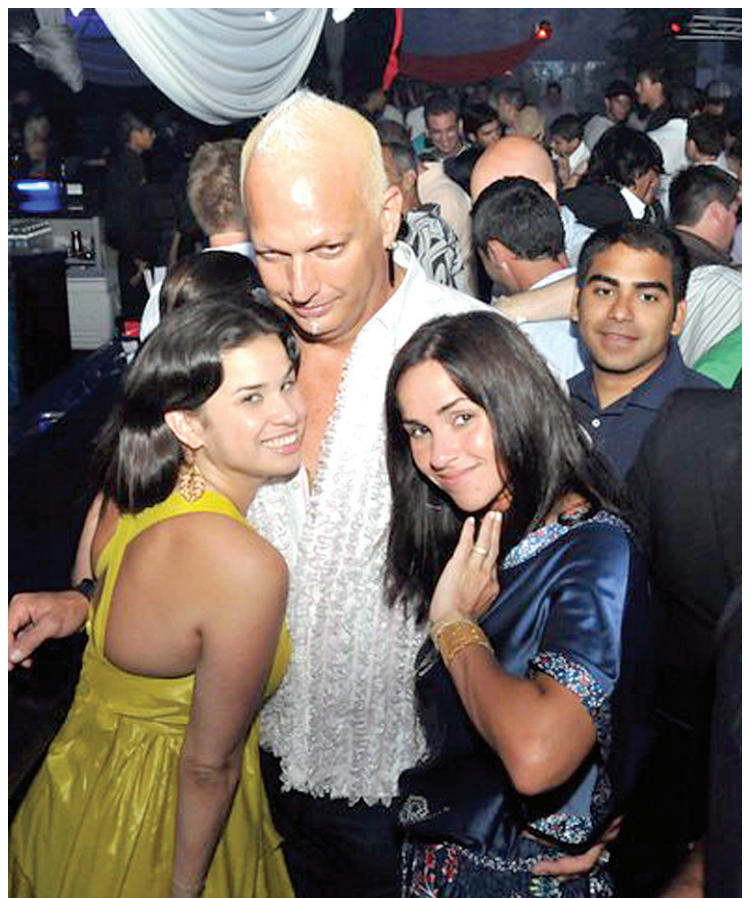
City, considered throughout the industry as New York City's top Progressive House Dj. In March of 2006 he began to tour extensively around the world. Consistently selling out each venue he has played, he is considered by many as "the 2007 break through dj" and has become one of the most In-Demand dj's on the



global touring circuit. He has had the privilege of playing alongside world renowned DJs such as Sasha, Carl Cox, Paul Van Dyk, Steve Lawler, Lee Burridge, Chris Fortier, Hybrid, ATB, Juan Atkins, Armin Van Buuren, Marcus Schulz, Hernan Cattaneo, Above & Beyond, Seb Fontaine, Oscar G, Gabriel & Dresden, Anthony Pappa, Sander Van Doorn, Darren Emerson, Ferry Corsten, Max Graham, and many, many others.

Aside from holding down a former Godskitchen residency in NYC, Jason has continuously held high profile residencies at NYC's top venues such as Avalon (NYC), Centro-Fly, Filter 14, the Roxy, Webster Hall, Spirit (formerly Twilo), Crobar New York, Love NYC, and @ Pacha New York.

With a standing applause by New Yorks best female DJ!! Lauren Lane - New York (USA). Lauren Lane is a New York City based DJ/Producer, focusing on original production work at the moment and also DJing across Europe, North America



at venues such as Pacha NYC, Cielo, Circa and Century Room (Toronto), Vessel (SF) and many other notable clubs such as Greenhouse, Love, Sullivan Room, LeSouk, Water Taxi Beach, Deko, Bliss and Neptune Beach in the

NY area, as well as Karu and Y and Nocturnal Terrace in Miami just to mention a few. You can expect to hear a mix of house/tech-house, minimal drums, electronic and funky dance floor inspired beats. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



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Beetles, wildfire: Double threat in warming world

By CHARLES J. HANLEY,
AP Special Correspondent

HAINES JUNCTION, Yukon Territory — A veil of smoke settled over the forest in the shadow of the St. Elias Mountains, in a wilderness whose spruce trees stood tall and gray, a deathly gray even in the greenest heart of a Yukon summer.

“As far as the eye can see, it’s all infested,” forester Rob Legare said, looking out over the thick woods of the Alsek River valley.

Beetles and fire, twin plagues, are consuming northern forests in what scientists say is a preview of the future, in a century growing warmer, as the land grows drier, trees grow weaker and pests, abetted by milder winters, grow stronger. Dying, burning forests would then only add to the warming. It’s here in the sub-Arctic and Arctic — in Alaska, across Siberia, in northernmost Europe, and in the Yukon and elsewhere in northern Canada — that Earth’s climate is changing most rapidly. While average temperatures globally rose 0.74 degrees Celsius (1.3 degrees Fahrenheit) in the past century, the far north experienced warming at twice that rate or greater.

In Russia’s frigid east, some average temperatures have risen more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), with midwinter mercury spiking even higher. And “eight of the last 10 summers have been extreme

wildfire seasons in Siberia,” American researcher Amber J. Soja pointed out by telephone from central Siberia.

Along with shrinking the polar ice cap and thawing permafrost, scientists say, the warming of the Arctic threatens to turn boreal forest — the vast cover of spruce, pine and other conifers blanketing these high latitudes — into less of a crucial “sink” absorbing carbon dioxide and more of a source, as megatons of that greenhouse gas rise from dead, burning and decaying wood.

American forest ecologist Scott Green worries about a “domino effect.”

“These things may occur simultaneously,” said the researcher from the University of Northern British Columbia. “If the bark beetles kill the trees, you’ll have lots of dead, dry wood that will create a really, really hot fire, and then sometimes you don’t get trees regenerating on the site.”

Dominoes may already be falling in western North America.

From Colorado to Washington state, an unprecedented, years-long epidemic of mountain pine beetle has killed 2.6 million hectares (6.5 million acres) of forest. The insect has struck even more devastatingly to the north, in British Columbia, where clouds of beetles have laid waste to 14 million hectares (35 million acres) — twice the area of Ireland. It is expected to kill 80 percent

of the Canadian province’s lodgepole pines before it’s finished.

Farther north, in the Yukon, the pine beetle isn’t endemic — yet. Here it’s the spruce bark beetle that has eaten its way through 400,000 hectares (1 million acres) of woodland, and even more in neighboring Alaska, in a 15-year-old epidemic unmatched in its longevity and extent.

“It’s a fingerprint of climate change,” Aynslee Ogden, senior researcher for the Yukon Forest Management Branch, said in Whitehorse, the territorial capital. “The intensity and severity and magnitude of the infestation is outside the normal.”

Hiking through the wild and beetle-ravaged Alsek valley, Legare, the Yukon agency’s forest health expert, explained how the 6-millimeter (quarter-inch) insect does its damage.

“Usually the female bores into the tree first, followed by the male, and then they mate and they both excavate a main egg gallery which runs parallel to the wood grain,” he said.

The hatched larvae, just beneath the outer bark, then feed via perpendicular galleries they bore around the tree, cutting off nutrients moving through the phloem and killing the plant. Its needles turn reddish, later gray, and eventually wind topples the dead wood.

Winter spells of minus-40-Celsius (minus-40-Fahrenheit) temperatures once killed off larvae, but those deep freezes



In this Aug. 6, 2009 photo, the spruce bark beetle, 6 millimeters (.25 inch) long, which has devastated the forests of southwest Yukon, aided by warmer summers that speed up its reproductive process and warmer winters that don’t kill off beetle larvae as in the past, is shown by Rob Legare, forest health expert with the Yukon Forest Management Branch. Scientists warn that global warming will spur insect infestations and wildfires in the world’s northern forests.

(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

now occur less often. And warmer summers enable some beetles to complete their reproductive cycle in one year instead of two, speeding up population growth.

Years of summer drought, meanwhile, weakened the spruces’ ability to extrude sticky pitch, to trap and expel beetles. Because the snow-streaked peaks of the 5,000-meter-high (15,000-foot-high) St. Elias range block moisture from the Pacific, a mere 250 millimeters (10 inches) of precipitation falls each year. Even a slight shortfall stresses the trees.

The Yukon has experienced smaller, briefer beetle outbreaks in the past, fed by patches of fallen trees left by road construction. But “what makes this infestation different” is that climate

change is a primary cause, said Legare.

As he spoke, smoke from dozens of fires, some nearby in the Yukon, some in distant Alaska, wafted over a landscape already bleak with dead forest.

In an authoritative 2007 assessment, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the U.N.-sponsored scientific network, cited multiple studies linking the spread of wildfires to warmer, drier conditions.

This June, in the latest such study, as early flames flared in California’s wildfire season, Harvard scientists said the area burned in the western United States could increase by 50 percent by the 2050s, even under the best-case warming scenario projected by the IPCC. □

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Stocks may fly on housing, consumers



Traders pictured on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange during morning trading, as a television shows Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke appearing before the House Financial Services Committee in his semi-annual testimony on the state of the economy in New York City, July 21. Bernanke told lawmakers that the economy has begun to show signs of stability.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Spencer Platt)

By Rachel Chang

NEW YORK (Reuters) – Is it game over for the recession? Or will consumers stay in hibernation?

Investors will watch this week's new home sales and consumer data to see if the economy's recovery is on track and whether the rally in U.S. stocks -- now at 2009 highs -- will continue.

On Friday, Wall Street got more confirmation that the economy is on the mend with a report showing existing home sales in July rose 7.2 percent -- the fastest pace in nearly two years and a sign that housing is pulling out of a three-year slump. The data, combined with stronger-than-expected second-quarter earnings, pushed the Standard

& Poor's 500 and the Nasdaq to the highest levels since last October.

So the report on new home sales for July, due Wednesday, is likely to get more scrutiny than usual from investors who want proof that the rally has been driven by more than hope for an economic turnaround.

"What we've seen so far has been data signaling that it's the end of the recession," said Kevin Caron, market strategist at Stifel, Nicolaus & Co in Florham Park, New Jersey.

This week's "data will be very important in determining if these trends are artificial, or if they're sustainable," Caron added. Other major indicators on this week's economic calendar include

consumer confidence, durable goods orders, GDP, personal income and consumption, and consumer sentiment.

For the past week, the Dow Jones industrial average (.DJI) ended up 2 percent, the S&P 500 (.SPX) gained 2.2 percent and the Nasdaq (.IXIC) climbed 1.8 percent.

Stronger-than-expected second-quarter earnings have helped bolster stocks over recent weeks. The S&P 500 is up about 11 percent since July 1.

Of the 480 companies in the S&P 500 that have reported second-quarter results so far, 73 percent beat expectations, while 9 percent were in line with expectations and 19 percent were below forecasts. That compares with 61 percent of companies beating expectations in a typical quarter, according to Thomson Reuters.

For the year, the Dow is up 8.31 percent, while the S&P 500 is up 13.60 percent and the Nasdaq has risen 28.15 percent.

But their gains from early March are even more impressive. From multiyear closing lows set on March 9, the Dow has gained 45.2 percent and the Nasdaq has advanced 59.3 percent.

The S&P 500 is up 51.7 percent from its 12-year closing low on March 9.

HOME SWEET HOME

Single-family home prices for June, due from the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index on Tuesday, are forecast to rise 0.2 percent, which would confirm May's surprising turnaround.

New home sales in July are expected to rise to an annual rate of 390,000 units, according to economists polled by Reuters. June's new home sales came in at an annual rate of 384,000

units. Coupled with Friday's better-than-expected existing home sales figures, optimism about the housing market could continue stocks' advance.

"We got a terrific existing home sales number and I hope to see follow-through (from) the Case-Shiller data," said Phil Orlando, chief equity market strategist at Federated Investors in New York. "If the data continues to improve, then the bears who have been very wrong (during this past rally) are really gonna have to throw in the bone now," he said.

HEY, BIG SPENDERS

Factors that could dampen the market's buoyance and reverse its direction are weak consumer sentiment and a lack of spending.

About 70 percent of GDP is derived from consumer spending. So the economic recovery will depend on consumers resuming their love affair with the retail sector. The government will take a second look at second-quarter GDP on Thursday. Economists polled by Reuters believe that GDP contracted at an annual rate of 1.4 percent in the second quarter, exceeding the initial estimate of a 1 percent decline. The U.S. consumer confidence index for August will be released on Tuesday by the Conference Board, a New York-based private research group. The Reuters poll called for an index reading of 47.5, up from July's slide to 46.6, which was substantially below expectations.

"Consumers are still pretty hunkered down," said Scott Wren, senior equity strategist at Wells Fargo Advisors in St. Louis.

The U.S. Commerce Department

will release July numbers on U.S. durable good orders on Wednesday. The Reuters forecast calls for overall durable goods orders to rise 3.2 percent in July after June's worse-than-expected drop of 2.2 percent.

The Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers will give a final reading on August consumer sentiment on Friday. The Reuters poll calls for a reading of 64, down from a preliminary figure of 66.0, which was the lowest since March.

Also on Friday, personal income and consumption figures for July will be watched for what they say about how much consumers are saving rather than spending.

Quarterly earnings from high-end jeweler Tiffany & Co (TIF.N) could shed some light on whether affluent consumers are shopping again -- or keeping a tight grip on their wallets.

Just a handful of S&P 500 companies will report results this week, but the whole spectrum of the retail sector -- from the ultra-bargain segment represented by Big Lots (BIG.N) and Dollar Tree Stores (DLTR.O) to such back-to-school destinations as office supplies store Staples (SPLS.O) and teen outfitter American Eagle (AEO.N) -- will be represented.

Stronger-than-expected earnings so far have proven companies' ability to plump up their bottom lines by cutting costs. But more growth needs to come from increased revenue, analysts say. If consumers do not return to stores, the market may have celebrated too soon, said Keith Springer, president of Capital Financial Advisory Services in Sacramento, California. □

Investors take short-term view in driving markets

By **STEPHEN BERNARD**,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Investors need to make a decision in the coming days: Should they trust Ben Bernanke's encouraging words about the future, or give in to worries about weak consumer spending?

The Federal Reserve chairman's declaration Friday that the economy is on the verge of recovery sent Wall Street surging and Treasury prices falling as investors poured money into stocks. The major indexes set new highs for 2009.

But investors have extremely short attention spans. When a new economic report is released or a company or government official comments on the economy, that drives trading, and data from just a day or two earlier seems to be forgotten.

That's what happened two weeks ago, when reassuring words from the Fed were quickly canceled out by downbeat reports about consumers. Stocks fell sharply and Treasuries rose as investors sought a safe haven. There could be a repeat this week, as markets worried about whether consumers are going to spend enough to power a recovery will get a pair of readings on consumer sentiment.

"Any consumer data in the short run, whether up or down, will affect the market," said Frank Ingarra Jr., co-portfolio manager at Hennessy Funds in Stamford, Conn.

On Tuesday, the Conference Board releases its monthly consumer confidence index. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters, on average, forecast a modest gain, expecting the index to rise to 48 for August from July's 46.6. The reading has fallen for two consecutive months, which is a concern for investors because consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of economic activity. And the July index was an unpleasant surprise, coming in weaker than analysts expected.

While the index is expected to rebound somewhat in August, it would take a reading above 90 to signal that the economy is on solid footing. And that's not likely to happen for some time, because consumers are still worried about losing their jobs as layoffs continue. On Friday, Reuters and the University of Michigan release their final report of consumer sentiment during August. The preliminary data released Aug. 14, which was significantly worse than expected, sparked a big stock sell-off.

If investors are able to hold on

to their optimism following Bernanke's remarks, they might be able to withstand still-shaky readings on consumers. But the market's recent pattern also begs the question: for how long? It's very likely that some economic or earnings report will unnerve the markets again.

Traders sent stocks sharply lower last Monday as they worried about consumer spending, and the major market indexes fell about 2 percent. By the end of the week, Bernanke's assessment of the economy and some better-than-expected existing home sales had the major indexes surging more than 1.5 percent. "The market says, 'what do you have for me today' and reacts," said Jordan Smyth, a managing director at Edgemoor Investment

Advisors in Bethesda, Md.

For the week, the Dow Jones industrial average jumped 2 percent, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 2.2 percent and the Nasdaq composite index rose 1.8 percent.

Investors' intense scrutiny of individual economic reports of course is nothing new; that is how the market has found its direction over the years. Now, though, they are still trying to determine when a recovery will begin and how strong it will be.

"We aren't far enough along to determine whether businesses have reached equilibrium and will move forward or fall further," said Doug Lockwood, chief investment officer at Cornerstone Wealth Management.

In between the consumer

confidence reports, investors will get the Commerce Department's data on July durable goods orders, which measures orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket manufactured goods.

Economists expect that orders rose 1.7 percent last month from June, when orders plunged 2.5 percent, their worst showing in five months. A rebound could again propel the market higher and be seen as a sign the economy is healing.

Smyth said that report provides an accurate outlook for potential future growth of businesses, making it a critical piece of data.

Despite the choppy trading lately, investors have been pleased by the economic data — after all, it has fed Wall Street's five-month rally. □



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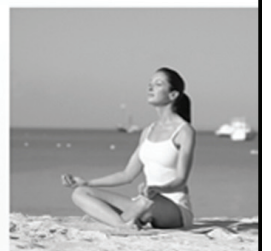
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Oranjestad, Aruba
Tel: (297) 582-7800
Fax: (297) 582-7044

www.arubatoday.com

E-mail news@arubatoday.com

Editor-in-Chief

Julia C. Renfro

Contributing Editors

Angela Muzenhofer

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Richard Brooks

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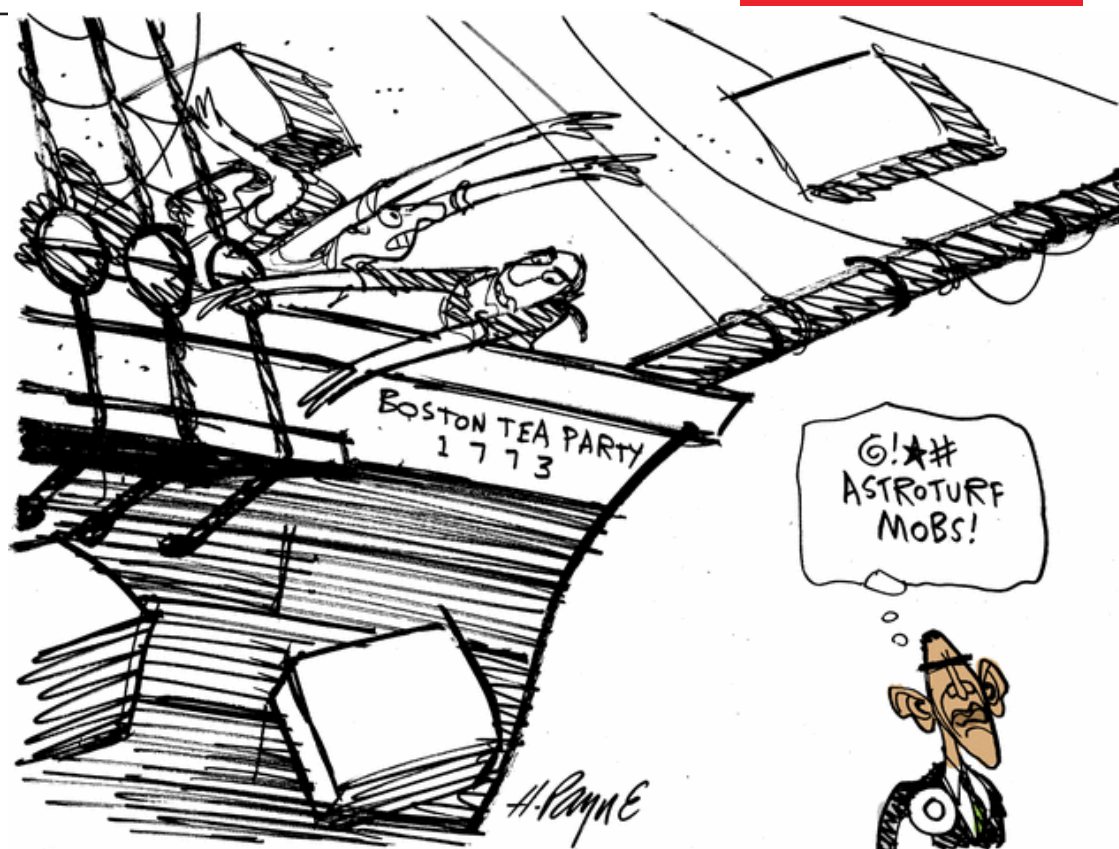
Dina Maria

Advertising Coordinator

Sandra Loeffstop-Duarte

aviso@bondia.com

bondia.aruba@gmail.com



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GAY MARRIAGE OPPONENTS WATCH AS THEIR RANKS DWINDLE

By Cynthia Tucker

Washington -- While President Obama campaigned on a pledge to repeal a noxious and divisive law called the Defense of Marriage Act, his Justice Department submitted a pro forma defense of the law earlier this summer. That upset many gay-rights activists, since DOMA, as it's called, is nothing but a bit of homophobic nonsense.

Just last week, though, the Obama administration made clear that it's still committed to getting rid of DOMA. (By longstanding tradition, Justice is obligated to defend laws when they draw legal challenge, a spokesman said.) Repealing it probably won't be as controversial as some Democrats may fear.

The culture has changed considerably since 1996, when a few state legislatures were beginning to seriously debate the concept of extending full marriage equality to gays and lesbians. That's when the GOP rushed to stoke its base of religious conservatives with a law that blocked that full equality. Where tradition (and law) had dictated that a marriage in New York or Hawaii must be recognized in Alabama or Wyoming, the Defense of Marriage Act allowed any state to deny the legitimacy of a same-sex marriage that had taken place elsewhere.

The bill's sweeping prohibitions also deny shared insurance and other work-related benefits to same-sex couples who work for the federal government, all so Congress could pose as the moral defender of traditional marriage. It was a strange pose, given that some of DOMA's staunchest supporters were divorcees and adulterers.

The act was authored by then-Republican Congressman Bob Barr, who was doing a star turn as a fringe lunatic from Georgia. He was already on his third marriage. It was supported by such dutiful husbands as then-U.S. Rep.

Mark Sanford, now governor of South Carolina, whose marriage is in tatters because his "soul mate" is not his wife.

Democrats jumped on board the hypocrisy train, too, for fear they might encounter a backlash from Bible-thumping voters. The womanizing Bill Clinton signed the legislation, telling The Advocate, a gay-interest newspaper, that "I remain opposed to same-sex marriage. I believe marriage is an institution for the union of a man and a woman."

Thirteen years later, Barr, now a Libertarian, has renounced his infamous legislation, saying it violates the principles of federalism. Clinton says he has no problems with same sex marriage, which six states either permit or will soon. (That period of homophobia did its damage, though. Twenty-eight states adopted amendments to their constitutions forbidding homosexual marriage.)

More pronounced still is the sweeping transformation in attitudes that has occurred just in the last few years. While a slight majority (about 53 percent) of Americans still oppose gay marriage, a similar majority, about 54 percent, supports civil unions, according to the Pew Forum for Religion and Public Life. Civil unions would permit same-sex couples to enjoy many of the legal benefits of marriage.

And the resistance to allowing gays and lesbians traditional marriage will have all but disappeared in a generation or two if current trends continue. Roughly half of adults under the age of 30 support gay marriage.

That said, Republicans can be expected to grandstand, exaggerate and incite fear and loathing when Obama puts the repeal of DOMA at the top of his agenda. Given the hysteria they've created with outright lies over health care reform, it's no telling what doom they'll predict if DOMA is repealed. □

NO IGNORING PROTESTS

By David M. Shribman

David M. Shribman

President Obama will return from his island idyll to a political landscape completely remade. He still will be greeted by swooning crowds and enthusiastic cheers. But his signature domestic policy is weakened, the result of a resurgent Republican Party that only months ago was on life support. The irony here is that the Republicans played little role in their recovery, and are instead the innocent and passive beneficiaries of a grassroots (and radio-inspired) insurgency that, if they examine it carefully, may yet bite them as fiercely as it has bitten the president and his congressional allies. But the conservative backlash against Republicans who supported big-government bailouts of the financial-services, insurance and automobile industries may not be evident for another eight or nine months, when primary challenges to GOP lawmakers may provoke political bloodshed. The damage to the Democrats will be evident before school starts. The administration already is backing away from a government-run health insurance program that was the centerpiece of its plan to overhaul the way Americans receive and pay for medical care, which accounts for almost a fifth of the entire national economy. It is doing so as the president's public-approval ratings are slipping and as lawmakers are discovering that perhaps the blandest of midsummer exercises, the mind-numbing congressional town meeting, suddenly has been transformed into an inferno of anger, some of it real, some of it mainly theatrical, some of it based on legitimate fear and fact, some of it fueled by fantasy and folklore.

This is one of those times when the people are speaking, even if it is not all the people and even if what they are saying is inchoate, inaccurate and irrational. A lot of what the Vietnam moratorium marchers were saying and chanting was inchoate, inaccurate and irrational also. In both cases, the nation paid attention.

This is a good time for a moment's reflection on the power of mass demonstration and mass dissent. These are revered aspects of our system, occurring throughout our history -- the anti-draft rallies of the Civil War period, the marches of the Civil Rights movement -- but they are not democracy. They are freedom of speech. Democracy is when the people rule. Freedom of speech is when people speak.

This is not the only nation where popular movements can be of great moment. There were legitimate mass demonstrations in czarist Russia for peace, bread and democracy, but the Bolshevik Revolution was not a democratic movement. □

Pitt, Tarantino's 'Basterds' earns glorious \$37.6M



In this film publicity image released by The Weinstein Co., Brad Pitt is shown in a scene from, 'Inglourious Basterds.'

(AP Photo/The Weinstein Co., Francois Duhamel)

By DAVID GERMAIN,
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — The war effort by Quentin Tarantino and Brad Pitt has paid off as their history lesson "Inglourious

Basterds" claimed victory at the box office with a \$37.6 million debut.

It was Tarantino's best opening ever, exceeding the \$25.1 million haul for 2004's "Kill

Bill — Vol. 2." Overseas, "Inglourious Basterds" added \$27.5 million in 22 countries, giving it a worldwide total of \$65.1 million.

Released domestically by the Weinstein Co. and overseas by Universal, "Inglourious Basterds" features Pitt and an international ensemble in a sprawling tale of Jewish commandos and a plot to take out Nazi leaders at a movie premiere during World War II. The film provided a much-needed hit for Harvey and Bob Weinstein, who have managed only lackluster receipts at their new outfit since departing Disney-owned Miramax four years ago.

At Miramax, the Weinsteins balanced prestige and profit with a string of Academy Awards triumphs such as "Shakespeare in Love" and "Chicago" and hits such as Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" and the "Scary Movie" and "Scream" franchises.

"Tarantino helped build the house of Miramax. He's proving right now that he's helping to build the house of Weinstein," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

So far, the Weinstein Co. has been unable to reproduce that Miramax success, its lineup burdened by box-office underachievers such as last year's "Soul Men" and 2007's "Grindhouse," Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez's B-movie double-feature.

Harvey Weinstein said critics continually write off him and his brother, including a magazine piece in 2002 "saying we were the flavor of the '90s but we were kind of over in the new millennium." Weeks later, he noted, Miramax scored 40 Oscar nominations, among them three of the five best-picture nominees, including eventual winner "Chicago."

Weinstein said his new company has a strong lineup ahead, including next weekend's horror sequel "Halloween II" along with "Chicago" director Rob Marshall's musical "Nine" and the post-apocalypse saga "The Road" late in the year.

Rodriguez, Tarantino's "Grindhouse" partner, did not fare so well with "Shorts," his Warner Bros. family comedy that debuted at No. 6 with just \$6.6 million. The movie features William H. Macy, James Spader, Leslie Mann and a cast of kids in a series of loosely linked adventures centered on a magic rock that grants wishes.

Fox Atomic's comedy "Post Grad," with Alexis Bledel as a college graduate who moves back home with her eccentric family after she's unable to land her dream job, tanked with \$2.8 million, coming in at No. 10.

The previous weekend's top movie, Sony's sci-fi thriller "District 9," slipped to second-place with \$18.9

million. With a domestic total of \$73.5 million, the movie is on its way to becoming a \$100 million sleeper hit.

Hollywood's revenues were up for the third-straight weekend, a late-season surge that has helped the industry recover from a monthlong slide in receipts. Overall ticket sales were \$134 million, up 27 percent compared to the same weekend last year.

The weekend put Hollywood back on track to break last summer's revenue record of \$4.2 billion, though receipts this season are up only a fraction.

Factoring in higher ticket prices this year, movie attendance is running 3 percent below last summer's, according to Hollywood.com.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "Inglourious Basterds," \$37.6 million.
2. "District 9," \$18.9 million.
3. "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra," \$12.5 million.
4. "The Time Traveler's Wife," \$10 million.
5. "Julie & Julia," \$9 million.
6. "Shorts," \$6.6 million.
7. "G-Force," \$4.2 million.
8. "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," \$3.5 million.
9. "The Ugly Truth," \$2.9 million.
10. "Post Grad," \$2.8 million

Police scour Canada for millionaire murder suspect

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
and ROB GILLIES,
Associated Press Writers

BUENA PARK, Calif. — Canadian authorities on Saturday intensified the manhunt for the millionaire reality TV star accused of murdering a former swimsuit model and stuffing her naked, mutilated body in a suitcase. "We're leaving no stone unturned, but we have to play our cards close to our chest right now," said Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt. Duncan Pound.

The search for Ryan Alexander Jenkins, a 32-year-old real estate developer and investor from Calgary, is centered around Vancouver and British Columbia, said Peter Van Loan, Canada's public safety minister.

The Mounted Police are leading the manhunt for Jenkins, who is suspected of strangling Jasmine Fiore and then reporting her missing the evening of Aug. 15 before fleeing. Jenkins and Fiore met in Las Vegas in March and they married a few weeks later. The couple separated shortly afterward, but had reportedly recently reconciled.

Fiore's body was found in a trash bin in Buena Park, an Orange County city about 20 miles southeast of Los Angeles.



Former swimsuit model Jasmine Fiore is pictured attending a party in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2006. Police in the United States and Canada were hunting for a television reality show contestant charged with the murder of Fiore, whose mutilated body was found inside a suitcase in a dumpster.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Ethan Miller)

Her teeth had been pulled out and her fingers cut off, apparently to impede her identification. Investigators used the serial numbers on her breast implants to identify her, said Farrah Emami, spokeswoman for the Orange County district attorney's office.

Authorities believe Jenkins fled via car, boat and on foot to enter his native Canada. Both Jenkins and Fiore were involved in the outer circles of the entertainment business

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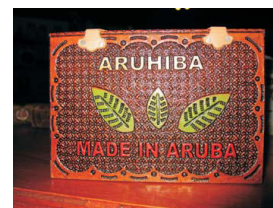
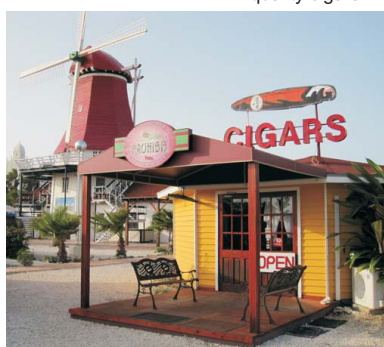
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ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.

Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba".

Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores.

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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

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Jumbled Chef Marc Hernandez is proudly presenting his rich platter with an 18oz Red Snapper or Grouper, a choice depending on the catch of that day. "Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was just a logical step for me to go crazy with this colorful pallet

of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables," Chef Marc says. With a smile he adds "And that just for US\$ 20!"

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A crew of rescue workers aboard a U.S. Coast Guard boat rescue an unidentified man from the ocean off the coast from where he was swept in, near Thunder Hole, as seen from Ocean Drive in Acadia National Park, Maine. Rescue crews were searching Sunday afternoon for three people who were swept into the sea after a large wave, an effect of Hurricane Bill, washed over a crowd watching the surf in Maine.

Associated Press

Obama wants honest health care debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama challenged critics of his push to overhaul America's health care system to stop the "outrageous myths" fanning an acrimonious, nationwide debate on the president's top domestic priority.

Obama said Saturday that the overhaul being debated in Congress would not, as has been claimed by many conservative opponents, cover illegal immigrants nor use taxpayer dollars to pay for abortions. The president reiterated that he does not intend a government takeover of health care — as critics have stated at contentious town hall-style meetings with members of Congress.

"This is an issue of vital concern to every American, and I'm glad that so many are engaged," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address. "But it also should be an honest debate,



President Barack Obama smiles as he walks to Marine One prior to departing the White House in Washington, Friday, Aug. 21, 2009, for Camp David, Md.

Associated Press

not one dominated by willful misrepresentations and outright distortions, spread by the very folks who would benefit the most by keeping things exactly as they are."

"So today, I want to spend a few minutes debunking some of the more outrageous myths circulating on the Internet, on cable TV and repeated at

some town halls across this country," the president said.

On Sunday, an independent senator counted on by Democrats in the health care debate showed signs of wavering when he urged Obama to postpone many of his initiatives because of the economic downturn.

Continued on Next Page

Martinez departure shows Republican Party problems



Republican Sen. Mel Martinez, announces his intention to resign from the Senate during a news conference, in Orlando, Fla., Friday, Aug. 7, 2009. Martinez is leaving the seat more than a year before his term ends.

*Associated Press***LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ**

AP Hispanic Affairs

MIAMI (AP) — Florida Sen. Mel Martinez's resignation closes the latest chapter in the Republican Party's tumultuous, decade-long effort to woo the nation's Hispanic voters.

Continued on Page B4

A resident sits on top of a water wagon during a fire at the Mount of Penteli, 22 miles east of Athens, early Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009. A massive wildfire tore through outlying suburbs north of Athens early Sunday, destroying homes and forcing thousands to flee in dramatic overnight evacuations, Fire Service and local officials said.

Associated Press

Tens of thousands flee raging wildfires in Greece

NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

Associated Press Writer

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A partial drop in gale-force winds early Monday offered hard-pressed Greek firefighters a brief respite after wildfires raged for two days north of Athens, burning houses and swathes of forest while forcing thousands to evacuate their homes.

Continued on Page B8



Congressman Tom Perriello, D-Va., right, listens, during a town hall meeting on Health Care at the Fluvanna Middle School in Fork Union, Va., Monday, Aug. 17, 2009. Perriello is one of three dozen Democratic Freshmen that have been thrown into the center of one of the most contentious policy debates in years.

HEALTH CARE

Continued from Page B1

"I'm afraid we've got to think about putting a lot of that off until the economy's out of recession," said Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman. "There's no reason we have to do it all now, but we do have to get started. And I think the place to start is cost health delivery

reform and insurance market reforms."

He added: "I think it's a real mistake to try to jam through the total health insurance reform, health care reform plan that the public is either opposed to or of very, very passionate mixed minds about."

In his weekly address, Obama

also took a swipe at "death panels," an idea former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin introduced on her Facebook page.

"As every credible person who has looked into it has said, there are no so-called death panels — an offensive notion to me and to the American people," Obama said. "These are phony claims meant to divide us."

The United States is the only developed nation that does not have a comprehensive national health care plan for all its citizens, and about 50 million of America's 300 million people are without health insurance.

Obama campaigned on a promise of offering affordable health care to all Americans, but the recession and a deepening budget deficit have made it difficult to win support for costly new programs. And overhauling the health care is politically risky, with lobbyists for insurance companies,

doctors, trial lawyers and others fiercely defending their interests.

Obama has proposed a system that would include government and private insurers. Opposition Republicans say that private insurers would be unable to compete, leaving the country with only a government-run health program, which they equate to socialism — a dirty word in America's political arena. They warn that could leave Americans with little control over their health care. In the latest example of the opposition facing Obama, a group opposed to the president's health-care proposals said it was planning an ad campaign to run locally while the first family vacations for the week in Martha's Vineyard.

Conservatives for Patients' Rights said more than \$150,000 was spent on the television ads, which urge the president to abandon his proposal to include a government-run health insurance option. The ads will run in the Boston and Martha Vineyard's markets, including spots that will air during the series between the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago White Sox, Obama's favorite baseball team.

The president also is fending off criticism from his left flank. Obama angered his liberal base this past week after seeming to suggest he would be OK with a plan that didn't have a government-run health insurance option.

"This is one idea among many to provide more competition and choice, especially in the many places around the country where just one insurer thoroughly dominates the marketplace," Obama said. "Let me repeat: It would be just an option; those who prefer their private insurer would be under no obligation to shift to a public plan."

Obama said: "this one aspect of the health care debate shouldn't overshadow the other important steps we can and must take to reduce the increasing burdens families and businesses face."

Republicans, in their weekly address, accused Obama of being the one misrepresenting his proposal.

"As opposition to the Democrats' government-run health plan is mounting, the president has said he'd like to stamp out some of the disinformation floating around out there," said Republican Rep. Tom Price. □

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Millions face shrinking Social Security payments

By **STEPHEN OHLEMACHER**

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Millions of older people face shrinking Social Security checks next year, the first time in a generation that payments would not rise. The trustees who oversee Social Security are projecting there won't be a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the next two years. That hasn't happened since automatic increases were adopted in 1975.

By law, Social Security benefits cannot go down. Nevertheless, monthly payments would drop for millions of people in the Medicare prescription drug program because the premiums, which often are deducted from Social Security payments, are scheduled to go up slightly.

"I will promise you, they count on that COLA," said Barbara Kennelly, a former Democratic congresswoman from Connecticut who now heads the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. "To some people, it might not be a big deal. But to seniors, especially with their health care costs, it is a big deal."

Cost of living adjustments are pegged to inflation, which has been negative this year, largely because energy prices are below 2008 levels.

Advocates say older people still face higher prices because they spend a disproportionate amount of their income on health care, where costs rise faster than inflation. Many also have suffered from declining

home values and shrinking stock portfolios just as they are relying on those assets for income.

"For many elderly, they don't feel that inflation is low because their expenses are still going up," said David Certner, legislative policy director for AARP. "Anyone who has savings and investments has seen some serious losses."

About 50 million retired and disabled Americans receive Social Security benefits. The average monthly benefit for retirees is \$1,153 this year. All beneficiaries received a 5.8 percent increase in January, the largest since 1982.

More than 32 million people are in the Medicare prescription drug program. Average monthly premiums are set to go from \$28 this year to \$30 next year, though they vary by plan. About 6 million people in the program have premiums deducted from their monthly Social Security payments, according to the Social Security Administration.

Millions of people with Medicare Part B coverage for doctors' visits also have their premiums deducted from Social Security payments. Part B premiums are expected to rise as well. But under the law, the increase cannot be larger than the increase in Social Security benefits for most recipients.

There is no such hold-harmless provision for drug premiums. Kennelly's group wants Congress to increase Social Security benefits next year, even though the formula doesn't call for it. She would

like to see either a 1 percent increase in monthly payments or a one-time payment of \$150.

The cost of a one-time payment, a little less than \$8 billion, could be covered by increasing the amount of income subjected to Social Security taxes, Kennelly said. Workers only pay Social Security taxes on the first \$106,800 of income, a limit that rises each year with the average national wage.

But the limit only increases if monthly benefits increase.

Critics argue that Social Security recipients shouldn't get an increase when inflation is negative. They note that recipients got a big increase in January — after energy prices had started to fall. They also note that Social Security recipients received one-time \$250 payments in the spring as part of the government's economic stimulus package.

Consumer prices are down from 2008 levels, giving Social Security recipients more purchasing power, even if their benefits stay the

same, said Andrew G. Biggs, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington think tank.

"Seniors may perceive that they are being hurt because there is no COLA, but they are in fact not getting hurt," Biggs said. "Congress has to be able to tell people they are not getting everything they want." Social Security is also facing long-term financial problems. The retirement program is projected to start paying out more money than it receives in 2016. □



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In this Tuesday, June 9, 2009 photo, Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., left, meets with Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor on Capitol Hill in Washington. As he resigns from the Senate, Martinez leaves behind only four Hispanic Republicans in Congress, compared to 21 Democrats, and a sense that the national Republican Party is close to writing off the nation's fastest growing demographic.

Associated Press

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Continued from Page B1

The Cuban-American's impending departure could leave no Hispanic Republicans in the Senate and three in the House — compared to 21 Democrats in Congress — and a sense that the national Republican Party is at a major crossroads with the nation's fastest-growing demographic group.

Although most Hispanics outside of Florida have long leaned Democratic, the Republican Party earned the trust of many at the beginning of the decade by tapping into socially conservative, religious and pro-business sentiment. Martinez both rode and propelled that wave.

"He symbolized trying to reach out to Latinos and being more moderate," said Marisa A. Abrajano, a University of California, San Diego professor and co-author of an upcoming book on Hispanic political behavior in the U.S.

But the heated rhetoric over illegal immigration in 2006, followed by the loss of many Republican moderates, and most recently the Republicans' failed opposition to Justice Sonia Sotomayor's Supreme Court nomination have helped drive away many Hispanic voters. Martinez, as senator and briefly as head of the party, tried to temper the anti-immigrant language, and he bucked his party by voting for Sotomayor, who is of Puerto Rican descent. Yet, in the end, few in Washington followed his lead.

"In the vast majority of their values, this party resonates with who I am — except they don't want me," lamented the Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, which represents more than 25,000 Hispanic evangelical churches across the country.

U.S. Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, a Florida Republican said Hispanics have a natural affinity with the Republican Party's principles but acknowledged the party has a lot of work to do. "Republicans have to be able to get the Hispanic community to focus on issues where Republicans have the right solutions — and these are critical issues: the economy being number one," he said.

Of course political fortunes rise and fall quickly. A Democratic failure to achieve meaningful health care or immigration reform

or an economic recovery that doesn't help average Hispanics could encourage them to give Republicans another chance.

But experts say the Republican Party has good reason to be worried.

"One election and one resignation is not the end of an era, but it does signify tremendous problems in appealing to Hispanics in Florida, and nationwide," said Florida International University political science Professor Dario Moreno.

Diaz-Balart said the immigration debate hurt his party's relations with Hispanics because it "cluttered the communication waves."

"What they see on television is a local or a state official speaking very negatively about immigrants and then what they see is that that person is Republican," said Diaz-Balart, who like Martinez supports a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

But Diaz-Balart said Republican leaders such as South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who also voted for Sotomayor, are helping to put the party on a new path. He predicted if Democratic leaders allow an immigration bill to reach the floor, Americans will hear a very different tone from his party. "Without any doubt how we handle that immigration debate is going to be very important," he said.

Republican National Committee Spokeswoman Gail Gitcho said voters are still recovering from election fatigue, but the Republican Party is working to expand its grassroots outreach to Hispanics and other minority communities through its state parties. "We certainly have to rebuild and expand the Republican Latino coalition," she said.

Still, Martinez's resignation is a reminder of just how empty the Republican party's bench of Hispanic leadership is outside of Florida, where the party maintains a strong presence, particularly among Cuban-Americans.

Congress' Republican Hispanic Conference now includes Diaz-Balart and two other veteran Cuban-American politicians from South Florida and a third-generation Portuguese-American from Central California — respected leaders but hardly representative of the nation's more than 45 million Hispanics, most of whom trace their roots to Mexico. □



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PG-13 DISTRICT 9
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matinee: 12:30 3:00 late show: 12:30

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daily: 4:45 7:00 9:15
matinee: 12:15 2:30 late show: 11:30

PG-13 THE PROPOSAL
daily: 9:30
matinee: late show: 12:15

PG HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE
daily: 5:45
matinee: 2:15 late show:

R THE HANGOVER
daily: 7:30 9:45
matinee: late show: 11:15

PG-13 JULIE AND JULIA
daily: 4:45
matinee: 2:00 late show:

R FUNNY PEOPLE
daily: 9:00
matinee: late show: 12:00

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matinee: 12:30 2:45 late show: **3D**

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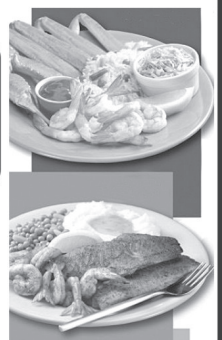
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Maine spectators swept to sea by wave are rescued

JASON BRONIS

Associated Press Writer

E D G A R T O W N, Massachusetts (AP)—A large wave fueled by Hurricane Bill swept spectators out to sea at a Maine park Sunday as the storm-churned surf attracted onlookers and daredevils along the Eastern Seaboard.

A man, a woman and a 7-year-old girl were pulled from the sea near Acadia National Park, Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Shane Coxon said.

“This is absolutely the effects of Hurricane Bill” coupled with the effect of high tide, park ranger Sonya Berger said.

The girl was unresponsive when she was rescued, the woman appeared to have a broken leg and the man had a previous heart condition that appeared to be acting up, Coxon said.

The hurricane was also blamed for the death of a 54-year-old swimmer Saturday in Florida. Volusia County Beach Patrol Capt. Scott Petersohn said Angel Rosa was unconscious when he washed ashore in rough waves fueled by Bill at New Smyrna Beach, along the central Florida coast. He was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Lifeguards there also rescued a handful of other swimmers believed to have suffered spinal injuries. The center of the hurricane was about 230 miles west of Newfoundland on Sunday night, according to the

National Hurricane Center. It had maximum sustained winds of 75 mph, and it was moving northeast at 35 mph. The storm is expected to continue to lose strength as it moves over cooler waters.

The three rescued in Maine were part of an early afternoon crowd of thousands who lined the national park’s rocky shoreline to watch the high surf and crashing waves.

About 20 people were swept into the ocean and 17 of them got out on their own, Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Adam Sansoucie. About 10 of those people were taken to the hospital for minor injuries, he said. Others on shore suffered minor injuries after being knocked onto the rocks by the waves, Acadia National Park Chief Ranger Stuart West said. James Kaiser of Bar Harbor was taking photographs when he heard shouts that people had been swept into the 55-degree (13-degree Celsius) water at the park’s Thunder Hole, a popular tourist attraction where waves often crash into a crevasse and make a thundering sound while splashing high in the air.

“I could see two people’s heads bobbing in the water,” Kaiser said. He said he thought they would be bounced back to shore because the waves were coming in so hard but that instead the current took them away from shore.

Along Nova Scotia’s Atlantic coast, the storm delivered steady downpours and



In this photo provided by Dennis Smith, the Coast Guard arrives at the Seal Harbor, Maine dock. Rescue crews were searching for people believed to be lost in the waves near Acadia National Park as a man, a woman and a 7-year-old girl were pulled from the sea, Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Shane Coxon.

fierce winds, forcing flight cancellations and temporary road closings. Bill ripped branches from trees in Halifax and elsewhere, and there was some localized flooding. Some 40,000 Nova Scotia Power customers lost power, but it was gradually being restored Sunday. Craig MacLaughlan, CEO of Nova Scotia’s Emergency Management Office, said no major damage has been reported in the province. The storm drew onlookers hoping to catch a glimpse of crashing waves as it marched through Atlantic

Canada.

Despite repeated warnings, people gathered in Peggy’s Cove, Nova Scotia, and along the boardwalk in downtown Halifax as swells grew steadily in strength and size.

“So far, it’s pretty wild,” said Heather Wright, who was walking along the Halifax harbor. In Massachusetts, President Barack Obama and his family arrived on Cape Cod on Sunday afternoon for vacation after the storm had passed well to the east.

Several people had to be rescued from the water in

Associated Press

Massachusetts, including a couple of kayakers who got stranded in the heavy seas off Plymouth, said Peter Judge, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

He said strong rip tides and beach erosion were the biggest concerns Sunday.

“Our biggest thing right now is just the rough surf,” he said. Dozens of people showed up at South Beach on Martha’s Vineyard with their cameras and camcorders to watch the big waves and churning Atlantic. □

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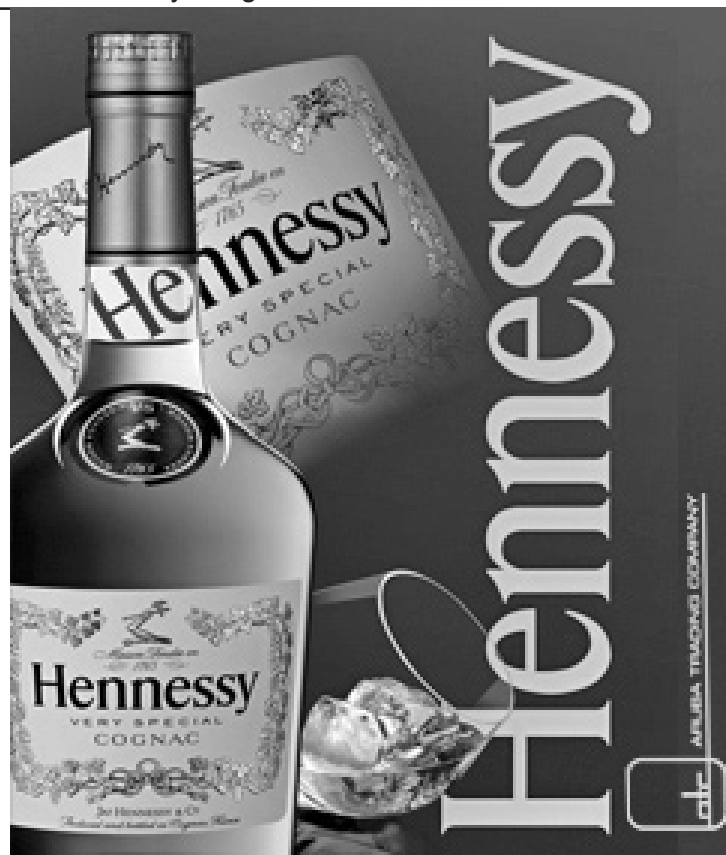
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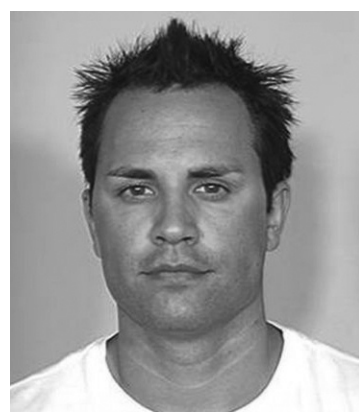


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This undated photo released by the Buena Park Police Department shows Ryan Alexander Jenkins, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Jenkins was fulfilling his dream of becoming a star, with a small fortune stowed away, a marriage - albeit brief - to a former model, and two gigs in reality TV. Canadian police say fugitive murder suspect Jenkins has been found dead of an apparent suicide in a motel in British Columbia on Sunday Aug. 23, 2009.

Associated Press

Police: Reality TV star found dead

JEREMY HAINSWORTH
ROB GILLIES

Associated Press Writers

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Canadian police say fugitive murder suspect and reality show contestant Ryan Jenkins was found dead Sunday of an apparent suicide in a motel in British Columbia.

Sgt. Duncan Pound of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police border integrity unit says police responded to a call about a dead person in Hope, east of Vancouver, and then called investigators who were part of the massive manhunt for Jenkins.

The real estate developer and investor was wanted in

California on first-degree murder charges after the mutilated body of his ex-wife Jasmine Fiore was found in a trash bin in Buena Park, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are "now able to confirm that a deceased person that was found in a motel in Hope, British Columbia is, in fact, Ryan Jenkins," Pound said.

"At this present time the investigation into the circumstances of his death is continuing, but preliminary evidence suggests that he took his own life. Any further details will not be released at this time as this investigation remains in its infancy."

Pound said police don't yet know how long Jenkins was at the motel before his body was discovered. Jenkins was identified through fingerprints, he said.

Jenkins' body was found in The Thunderbird Motel on a secluded road on the outskirts of Hope, B.C. at the entrance to the western province's mountainous interior. His body was found in a room at the out-of-the-way motel.

The Thunderbird was surrounded by police with a coroner's van, said Marc Lojeski who works at the nearby Lucky Strike Motel.

Jenkins, 32, disappeared last week but his boat was found Wednesday at a marina not far

from the U.S.-Canada border south of Vancouver.

Jenkins had apparently hanged himself, said Farrah Emami, spokeswoman for the Orange County District Attorney's Office in California, which is in contact with Canadian police. Fiore's teeth had been pulled out and her fingers cut off, apparently to impede her identification. Investigators used the serial numbers on her breast implants to identify her, according to the Orange County district attorney's office.

Jenkins and Fiore met in Las Vegas in March and they married a few weeks later. The couple separated shortly afterward, but had reportedly recently reconciled.

California authorities said police in Buena Park where Fiore was found would continue their investigation to make sure no one else was involved in the killing, but did not expect to find anything.

"We continue to believe that Mr. Jenkins was solely responsible," said Emami, spokeswoman for the Orange County District Attorney's Office. A phone message left with Fiore's mother, Lisa Lepore, was not immediately returned.

Friends said Fiore was a model who worked mainly in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, doing gigs such as being bodypainted at parties. □

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Pakistan Taliban commander vows Afghan fight

ISHTIAQ MAHSUD

Associated Press Writer

MAKEEN, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani Taliban fighters are committed to helping the fight in Afghanistan and consider Barack Obama their “No 1 enemy,” a top commander said amid uncertainty about whether a new leader has been appointed to head the movement.

Waliur Rehman made the remarks in an interview with The Associated Press at a time of intense speculation over the next leader of the al-Qaida-allied group. A CIA missile strike on Aug. 5 is believed to have killed former chief Baitullah Meshsud. Rehman, a cousin of Baitullah, is seen as a strong candidate for the post.

Rehman said on Saturday that Baitullah had given him full control over the network and that a new leader “would be chosen within five days.” Rehman made no reference to Hakimullah Meshud, whose aides said separately later Saturday that he had been chosen as new leader during a meeting Friday.

Rehman’s comments cast doubt on whether Hakimullah’s appointment had been agreed by all top Taliban members, and could indicate splits over succession within the movement of up to 25,000

fighters.

Rehman met the AP in a forest near Makeen village in the heart of the semiautonomous lands close to the Afghan border where al-Qaida and the Taliban hold sway. Looking healthy and dressed in clean, ironed clothes, he was accompanied by five armed guards.

American officials are watching closely to see who succeeds Baitullah, in particular whether the new leader will direct more fighters across the border where U.S. and NATO forces are facing soaring attacks by insurgents. Baitullah was believed to have mainly concentrated on attacking Pakistani targets.

“We are with Afghan Taliban. We will keep on helping them until America and its allies are expelled,” he said, adding this did not mean an end to attacks in Pakistan. “American President Obama and his allies are our enemy No 1,” he said. “We will sacrifice our bodies, hearts and money to fight them.”

Like most other members of the Taliban network, he insisted Baitullah was alive but sick, hence the need for a new chief. U.S. and Pakistani officials are almost certain he is dead, especially since the Taliban have provided no proof he is alive.

Two close aides to another commander, Maulvi Faqir Mohammad, told The Associated Press on Saturday a 42-member Taliban council, or shura, had appointed Hakimullah their new leader in an unanimous decision on Friday.

“Now all these talks of differences should end,” said one of the aides, Bakht Zada. “There have not been any differences ever.”

Mohammed Amir Rana, an expert on Pakistani militant groups, said he believed the Taliban had not agreed on a replacement.

“Maulvi Faqir Mohammad is trying to manipulate the race by announcing to the press that Hakimullah is the head,” he said. “Until now there is no consensus,” he said, adding that supporters of Waliur Rehman, did not accept him.

Interior Minister Rehman Malik said the government had received intelligence reports about Hakimullah’s appointment “as the chief terrorist” but there was no official confirmation. The Dawn newspaper quoted one unidentified intelligence officer as saying the announcement “was a ruse” as part of the ongoing power struggle. Since Aug. 5, Pakistani officials have been eager to portray the Taliban as



Top Pakistani Taliban commander Waliur Rehman Talks to the Associated Press in Makeen situated in Pakistan’s Tribal region along the Afghanistan border on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009.

Associated Press

indisarray, saying commanders who comes from a different and the rank-and-file were part of the tribal region — fighting among themselves. claimed to have taken over the At one point, Mohammad — leadership □

Healthy looking Fidel Castro meets Ecuador leader



In this Friday, Aug. 21, 2009, photo taken and released Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009, by Cuba’s newspaper Juventud Rebelde, Cuba’s leader Fidel Castro, right, and Ecuador’s President Rafael Correa meet in Havana. Castro, 83, wore a white shirt instead of the sports apparel he had worn in recent photos.

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba’s Communist Youth newspaper is showing a photo of a healthier-looking

Fidel Castro talking with the visiting Ecuadorean president.

Sunday’s photo in Juventud

Rebelde shows the 83-year-old Castro wearing a white shirt instead of the sports apparel he has worn in recent photos. The meeting with Rafael Correa occurred Friday.

Castro ceded power to his brother Raul after falling ill three years ago and he has not been seen in public since. He stepped down as president in February 2008.

Cuba’s state-run press occasionally publishes photographs of Castro with visitors, but news of his health is considered a state secret. Castro also often publishes essays on global affairs. Correa’s visit includes medical checkups. □

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WILDFIRES IN GREECE

Continued from Page B1

Officials warned that the vast blaze was still threatening inhabited areas on the capital's northern fringes and near Marathon — site of one of history's most famous battlegrounds.

"There are fewer hazardous points," Fire Brigade spokesman Yiannis Kappakis said. "But the blaze is still developing."

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis said the fire — one of more than 90 that broke out across Greece over the weekend — was still very hard to tackle.

"The situation remains very difficult," he said after a fire brigade briefing. "The enormous (firefighting) effort will continue on all fronts throughout the night."

Firefighters were set to gain a new boost at first light Monday, when water-dropping aircraft will resume operations, assisted by aircraft from France, Italy and Cyprus. Nearly 2,000 firefighters and soldiers are engaging the blaze on the ground, together with hundreds of volunteers.

In many afflicted areas, however, despairing residents pleaded for firefighters and equipment that were nowhere to be seen.

Earlier Sunday, thousands of residents of Athens' northern outskirts evacuated their

homes, fleeing in cars or on foot. The fire destroyed several houses as it advanced across an area more than 30 miles (50 kilometers) in circumference. Six major fires were burning early Monday across Greece. The Athens blaze started north of Marathon plain, and spread over Mount Penteli — on the city's limit to the north — threatening outlying suburbs. Driven by gale-force winds, the blaze grew fastest near Marathon, from which the long-distance foot race takes its name, born from a legendary run after the 490 B.C Athenian victory over an invading Persian army.

One resident, Nikos Adamopoulos, said he had driven over a large part of the area and saw no firefighters. "The Museum of Marathon is being encircled by fire and flames are closing in on (the archaeological site of) Rhamnus," he told The Associated Press. Rhamnus is home to two 2,500-year-old temples.

The mayor of Marathon said he had been "begging the government to send over planes and helicopters" to no avail.

"There are only two fire engines here; three houses are already on fire and we are just watching helplessly," mayor Spyros Zagaris told Greek TV.

Zagaris was among several

local leaders who accused the government of having no plan to fight the fire.

Finance Minister Yiannis Papathanassiou responded: "This is not the time for criticism under these tragic conditions. We are fighting a difficult fight."

Another official said emergency workers were exhausted.

"The firefighters, soldiers and volunteers fighting the fire are tired and their equipment is being used constantly and there is fatigue there too," said deputy Interior Minister Christos Markoyiannakis.

Opposition politicians have been restrained in their criticism so far.

But both Communist Party leader Aleka Papariga and Giorgos Karatzaferis, head of populist right-wing Popular Orthodox Rally, said the government had learned nothing from the catastrophic summer fires of 2007, when 76 people died and several villages were totally destroyed in southern Greece.

A shift in wind helped halt the flames in the town of Agios Stefanos, a township on the fringes of Athens on the opposite side of Mount Penteli from Marathon. Most of its 10,000 inhabitants had evacuated Sunday afternoon. By nightfall, the town was empty, authorities said.

The nine helicopters and 14



Taiwan military rescue villagers on an emergency cable sling strung across the Ba Si Lan river in Sinfa, Taiwan, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009, five days after flash flooding from Typhoon Morakot took the lives of 32 fellow villagers. The sign reads 32 dead in their village from Typhoon Morakot's flooding. Hundreds of villagers fled their homes minutes before a flood-created lake burst Thursday, as the Taiwanese military deployed thousands more troops to rescue and deliver supplies to survivors from remote villages devastated during last weekend's typhoon.

Associated Press

planes that operated during the day, including two planes sent from Italy, dumped some 4,000 tons (3,600 metric tons) of water on the fire, but apparently without much success. Television showed airplanes and helicopters dropping water on a forest outside Agios Stefanos — and the fire re-igniting moments after they left.

About 58 square miles (37,000 acres or 15,000 hectares) of forest, brush and olive groves have burned.

The highly flammable pine forests around Athens' northern suburbs helped the

fire spread.

Athens prefect Yiannis Sgouros said the full extent of the damage would take days to estimate.

Authorities evacuated two large children's hospitals, as well as campsites and homes in villages and outlying suburbs threatened by blazes that scattered ash across Athens. The flames also approached a large monastery on Mount Penteli.

Elsewhere in Greece, serious fires were reported on the islands of Evia and Skyros in the Aegean Sea and Zakynthos in the west. □

Islamic officials take custody of woman for caning

MARK D. BAKER

Associated Press Writer

KARAI, Malaysia (AP) — Islamic officials took custody Monday of a Muslim model scheduled to be caned this week for drinking beer, the first woman in Malaysia to be given the punishment for violating religious laws. Two female and one male officials came to the house of Kartika Sari Dewi Shukarno in northern Malaysia and took her away in a van on a four-hour road journey to a prison near Kuala Lumpur, the country's main city.

Officials have said she will be caned sometime during the week but no specific date has been set.

Kartika, 32, is to become the first Malaysian woman to be caned in Malaysia. She was arrested in a raid for drinking beer at a hotel lounge last year for breaching the Muslim-majority country's Shariah law, which forbids Muslims to consume alcohol. She was sentenced by a Shariah court in July in what was considered a warning to other Muslims to abide by religious laws. Kartika did not appeal and says she is willing to be caned.

Dressed in a full-length cream-and-red satin gown and a head scarf, Kartika

emerged from her house and walked past a group of about 50 local Muslims who said prayers for her.

After a last kiss with her 5-year-old daughter, she got into the silver van along with her sister and the Islamic officials. She did not speak to the horde of media assembled outside the house in the countryside, about 5 miles (7 kilometers) from Karai town in the northern Perak state. In an interview with The Associated Press last week, Kartika had said she wants to be caned because "I want to respect the law." The law provides for a three-year prison term and caning for Muslims caught drinking, but most offenders are fined. Drinking is legal for non-Muslims. "Who am I to question the Islamic authorities' laws? That is beyond me," she said. Islamic authorities insist that the purpose of the caning is to educate rather than punish. They say the rattan cane to be used on Kartika will be smaller and lighter than the one used for men and that she will remain clothed. The prison official who canes her is also supposed to use very little force. Men convicted of civil crimes such as rape and bribery in Malaysia are caned on their bare buttocks, breaking the



Muslim model Kartika Sari Dewi Shukarno, 32, who will be caned for drinking beer, is escorted by Islamic religious officers to a waiting van to be taken away at her father's home in Karai, 124 miles north of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Monday, Aug. 24, 2009.

Associated Press

skin and leaving permanent scars.

Kartika said four close relatives, including her father and sister, have requested permission to witness her being caned in a women's prison.

Officials have indicated the request would be granted, she said.

Amnesty International has urged authorities to revoke the sentence and abolish the practice of caning. □



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Roger Federer, from Switzerland, thanks the crowd after defeating Novak Djokovic, from Serbia, 6-1, 7-5, to win the title at the Cincinnati Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

Federer in form, wins Cincinnati Masters title

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP)— Changing diapers doesn't seem to bother Papa Federer's game. With a dominant first set on Sunday, Roger Federer showed that he's in top-of-the-world form after his time off to become a father. A 6-1, 7-5 victory over Novak Djokovic brought him the Cincinnati Masters title, his first championship since his twin girls were born last month.

"That's the special part, especially winning for the first time as a dad," Federer said. "It gets me going emotionally a little bit, because I know it's been a wonderful summer."

His stellar season can get even better beginning next week at the U.S. Open. The Swiss star has won the last five titles there, and his performance on Sunday suggested he's fully capable of another. Djokovic hadn't lost a set all week, but was never in the title match.

"The closest I was going to get to the first-place trophy is now," the world's fourth-ranked player said, standing 5 feet away from the crystal bowl that goes to the winner of the \$3 million Western & Southern Financial Group Masters. □



Americans earn three more golds on final day of worlds

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

BERLIN (AP)— On a brilliant gold-medal day for the United States, LaShawn Merritt, Kerron Clement, Allyson Felix and Sanya Richards won their second world titles in the 4x400 relay races, pushing their team clear in the medals table at the end of the championships.

In the women's relay, it was Jamaica which was giving the Americans the hardest time. But while the Jamaican yellow ruled the sprints, it was all American blue in 400 races, and huge margins in the relays underscored their power. When 400 champion Richards took the baton home, she put the United States ahead of the Jamaicans for good in the overall standings.

"It was incredible, my teammates were phenomenal," Richards said.

Merritt, the 400 champion and Clement, the 400 hurdles gold medalist, followed it up in the men's team to victory.

"Championships are all about getting the medal," Merritt said after getting the same two golds as at the Beijing Olympics.

In the final medal standings, the United States had 10 golds and 22 overall, with Jamaica second with seven gold and 13 overall.

"We did an awesome job," Jamaican relay runner Novlene Williams-Mills said. "It's nice to bring Jamaica the last medal of the championships."

The United States also got a surprise individual gold from Brittney Reese in the woman's long jump. She beat defending champion Tatyana Lebedeva of Russia with a jump of 7.10 meters.

Reese's victory came one day after American teammate Dwight Phillips won the men's long jump.

As dominant as the American relay teams were Sunday, it was tough for Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia, who earned a second long-distance double in as many years by adding the 5,000-meter title to his 10,000 — the same feat he accomplished at the Beijing Olympics.

The Ethiopian extended his reign after first containing a Kenyan challenge in mid-race before withstanding defending champion Bernard Lagat of the United States in a thrilling sprint to the line.

Rarely was Bekele as elated, slapping his chest with an open hand and showing a beaming smile as he made it clear that others may challenge, but not conquer.

"It was a very hard race," he said after becoming the first Ethiopian to win 5,000 world championship gold. "I'll never forget this race."

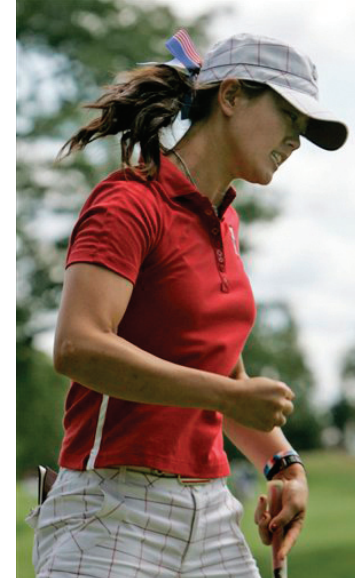
"I never made a double in the Olympics and world championships," Bekele said. "I'm so happy."

So was Lagat, who was running with four stitches in a numbed up left ankle after he was spiked in qualifying.

"I didn't know I was going to run," the American said. "It is a huge cut."

Bekele finished in a slow 13 minutes, 17.09 seconds, with Lagat .24 seconds behind. James Kwalia C'Kurui of Qatar took bronze in 13:17.78. Both silver and bronze medalists are Kenyan-born.

Continued on Page B12



Team USA's Michelle Wie reacts after winning her singles match on the 18th hole at the Solheim Cup golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009, at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, Ill.

Associated Press

Americans retain Solheim

NANCY ARMOUR

AP National Writer

SUGAR GROVE, Illinois (AP) — The United States won the Solheim Cup on Sunday when Morgan Pressel delivered the clinching point with her 3-and-2 victory over Anna Nordqvist to give the United States the 14 it needed to retain one of the most coveted titles in women's golf.

After Nordqvist missed an 8-footer she needed to keep the match going, Pressel's teammates leaped up and started celebrating.

They exchanged hugs and high-fives, and waved their arms to rev up the roaring crowd.

Michelle Wie, whose 3-0-1 record was the best of any American this week, grabbed a U.S. flag and held it high as she ran around with it.

"It's great," Pressel said, fighting back tears. "A great feeling."

Three matches were still being played when the Americans clinched the cup. Christina Kim's 2-up win over Tania Elosegui gave the Americans 15 points and the outright title. □

NL Roundup

Unassisted triple play ends Phils' win over Mets

NEW YORK (AP) — Second baseman Eric Bruntlett produced an unassisted triple play to cap the Philadelphia Phillies' 9-7 victory over the New York Mets in the National League on Sunday.

It was the 15th unassisted triple play in major league history — the second that ended a game. Detroit Tigers first baseman Johnny Neun also accomplished the feat on May 31, 1927, completing a 1-0 victory over Cleveland, according to STATS LLC.

With runners on first and second in the ninth inning, Jeff Francoeur hit a line drive up the middle that appeared headed toward center field for a single. But both runners were stealing on the pitch, so Bruntlett was in perfect position as he moved over to cover second base.

He caught the liner easily, stepped on second to double up Luis Castillo and then turned to tag Daniel Murphy for the third out. Murphy tried to backpedal away from Bruntlett, but had nowhere to go. The Phillies raced onto the field to congratulate Bruntlett after the stunning ending gave Lidge his 25th save in 33 chances.

Philadelphia scored six times in the first inning off Oliver Perez (3-4) on three-run homers by Jayson Werth and Carlos Ruiz.

At Denver, Ubaldo Jimenez threw eight strong innings and Seth Smith hit a two-run homer in the seventh as Colorado downed San Francisco.

Held hitless by Tim Lincecum for 5 1-3 innings, the Rockies rallied to move three games ahead of San Francisco in the NL wild-card race. Jimenez (12-9) won his sixth straight decision for Colorado, which has taken two of three in a four-games series that concludes Monday night at Coors Field.

The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner, Lincecum (12-4) was working on a no-hit bid in the sixth when Todd Helton singled off the glove of shortstop Edgar Renteria. Brad Hawpe walked with two



Philadelphia Phillies' second baseman Eric Bruntlett, right, completes an unassisted triple play to end the game by catching the line drive from New York Mets' Jeff Francoeur, stepping on second base and tagging out the New York Mets' Daniel Murphy, center, while Phillies' Jimmy Rollins, left, looks on in the bottom of the ninth inning of their baseball game at Citi Field in New York, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009. The Phillies won 9-7.

outs and Ian Stewart's RBI single cut the Giants' lead to 2-1.

At San Diego, John Smoltz had a brilliant debut with St. Louis, striking out a season-high nine batters — including seven straight — to hold San Diego to three hits over five scoreless innings.

Smoltz also had a bunt single and scored the first run for the NL Central-leading Cardinals. Albert Pujols hit his 40th

homer, a leadoff shot to right in the fourth. It was the fifth time he's hit 40 homers and the first since 2006, when he hit a career-high 49.

The benches and bullpens emptied momentarily after Pujols apparently thought Padres rookie Will Venable threw an elbow while being tagged out to end the sixth inning. No punches were thrown and order was quickly restored.

Associated Press
Smoltz (1-0) signed with the Cardinals on Wednesday after he cleared waivers following

his release from the Red Sox. Ryan Franklin earned his 32nd save in 34 chances.

At Los Angeles, Jake Fox went had four hits from four pitches with a home run and two RBIs as Chicago rallied to avert a four-game sweep to Los Angeles.

Fox had the first four-hit game of his career while starting in place of outfielder Alfonso Soriano, given his second consecutive day off because of a sore knee.

The Cubs avoided being swept in a four-game series in Los Angeles for the first time since 1965 while closing out their West Coast trip with a 2-5 record. They return to Wrigley Field having lost 12 of 18 overall.

In other NL games it was, Philadelphia 9, N.Y. Mets 7; Cincinnati 4, Pittsburgh 1; Atlanta 7, Florida 5; Washington 8, Milwaukee 3; Arizona 7, Houston 5; Colorado 4, San Francisco 2; St. Louis 5, San Diego 2; and Chicago Cubs 3, L.A. Dodgers 1. □

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Brittney Reese of the United States on her way to winning the gold medal as she competes in the final of the Women's long jump during the World Athletics Championships in Berlin on Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009.

Associated Press

Continued from Page B10

The first man running for Kenya to finish was 2003 champion Eliud Kipchoge, a fading fifth.

A win for Bekele partly salvaged the championships for Ethiopia, which saw its women's running team underperform while rival Kenya surged up the standings. Bekele's gold was Ethiopia's second, compared to Kenya's four.

Ethiopia could have added a third in the 1,500, but favorite Gelete Burka was pushed into the ground by Natalia Rodriguez of Spain in a hectic final 200 meters. The Spaniard crossed the line first but was disqualified, giving defending champion Maryam Jamal of Bahrain the gold medal.

Earlier on the closing day of the competition, Bai Xue shook off Yoshimi Ozaki of Japan in the latter stages

of a sun-drenched women's marathon through the heart of the German capital to clinch China's first ever major title in the event.

And the world's most populous country with 1.3 billion people finally had a title to celebrate as Bai waved the red flag with five yellow stars around, with a few Chinese fans dancing wildly under the Brandenburg Gate.

Olympic champion Andreas Thorkildsen of Norway won his first javelin title at the world championships after finishing second twice. Thorkildsen won with a throw of 89.59 meters.

Guillermo Martinez of Cuba took silver and Yukifumi Murakami of Japan earned the bronze. Defending champion Tero Pitkamaki of Finland finished fifth. □

Dementieva tops Sharapova for Rogers Cup

TORONTO — Elena Dementieva's U.S. Open tuneup was an overwhelming success.

The No. 4 seed overcame an ugly first set to beat Maria Sharapova 6-4, 6-3 on Sunday in the final of the Rogers Cup. Dementieva's steady play was too much for an error-prone Sharapova to handle in the first all-Russian final in tournament history.

A hardcourt specialist, Dementieva dominated No. 2 Serena Williams in the semifinal, and had a similarly easy time against former No. 1 Sharapova as she prepares for the U.S. Open, which gets under way Aug. 31.

"It's great to have so many good matches against so many top-10 players here," said Dementieva, who has three wins in 11 career meetings with Sharapova. "I hope it's going to be good preparation. For sure, this kind of win gives you a lot of confidence, so right now it's all about recovering and getting ready for New York."

Playing in her first final since a serious shoulder injury, Sharapova committed 10 double faults and had trouble with even the most routine shots.

Despite the loss, Sharapova said she was pleased by her overall performance.

"I think it was a really great week for me," Sharapova said. "Playing six matches was great leading up to the U.S. Open. I think this was really good preparation."


Both players fought breezy conditions in front of a packed house at the Rexall Centre during a sloppy first set. It featured eight service breaks, 14 double faults and a number of easy shots hit long, or drilled into the net.


Dementieva went ahead 4-1 on the strength of two breaks — the first aided by three Sharapova double faults. But Sharapova saved three break points in the next game to hold serve, and closed within 4-3 when Dementieva double faulted to lose her service game.

Both players traded breaks before Dementieva finally finished things off, converting her third set point when Sharapova hit a forehand into the net.

The second set was a little tamer, with both players holding serve until the sixth game. Sharapova fought off two break points but fired a forehand into the net on the third to hand Dementieva a 4-2 lead. □

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WNBA Roundup

Smith's season-high 31 lifts Shock to win

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — Katie Smith scored a season-high 31 points to help the Detroit Shock to a key 99-84 win Sunday over the San Antonio Silver Stars.

The game was a rematch of last year's WNBA finals, but both teams are struggling just to reach the postseason.

Detroit (11-14) won for the second night in a row to get within a game of the final Eastern Conference spot, while San Antonio (11-16) dropped its third straight and now trails Minnesota by a game.

Alexis Hornbuckle added 14 points for Detroit. Sophia Young led San Antonio with 19 points and Ann Wauters scored 18.

Sparks 91, Dream 87

At Atlanta, Candace Parker scored 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds in the Sparks' victory.

Parker and Noell Quinn each scored six points as the Sparks (13-13) used an 18-6 run at the start of the fourth quarter to break open the game.

Izzy Castro Marques scored a game-high 26 points for Atlanta, which lost for just the second time in the past nine games. Angel McCoughtry added 23 points for the Dream (14-12).

Liberty 80, Lynx 67

At New York, Shameka



Connecticut Sun's Lindsay Whalen (13), right, fights for a rebound against Minnesota Lynx's Kelly Miller during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Uncasville, Conn., on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009.

Associated Press

Christon scored 24 points and Cathrine Kraayeveld had a season-high 18 to keep Liberty in playoffs contention.

Tiffany Jackson added 10 points for New York (11-16), which won for the fifth time in eight games to move two games behind Chicago and Washington for the fourth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Nicky Anosike scored 18 points and Charde Houston had 15 for the Lynx (11-16), who lost their sixth straight and ninth in their last 10. Minnesota shot 11 for 20 in the first quarter, but then made just 12 of 48 (25 percent) the rest of the way. □

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Confirman H1N1 en pavos chilenos es el mismo que afecta humanos

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - Chile confirmó el sábado que recientes pruebas realizadas a pavos infectados con la gripe H1N1, los primeros casos en el mundo de la temida influenza, corresponden al mismo virus que ha afectado a humanos y cerdos.

A través de un reporte del gubernamental Instituto de Salud Pública (ISP), se ratificó que la cepa de virus es 100 por ciento similar a la que causó el brote de influenza humana y que en Chile ha dejado hasta el momento 128 personas muertas, mientras que los contagiados alcanzan a 12.175.

El jueves, el Gobierno chileno detectó la presencia

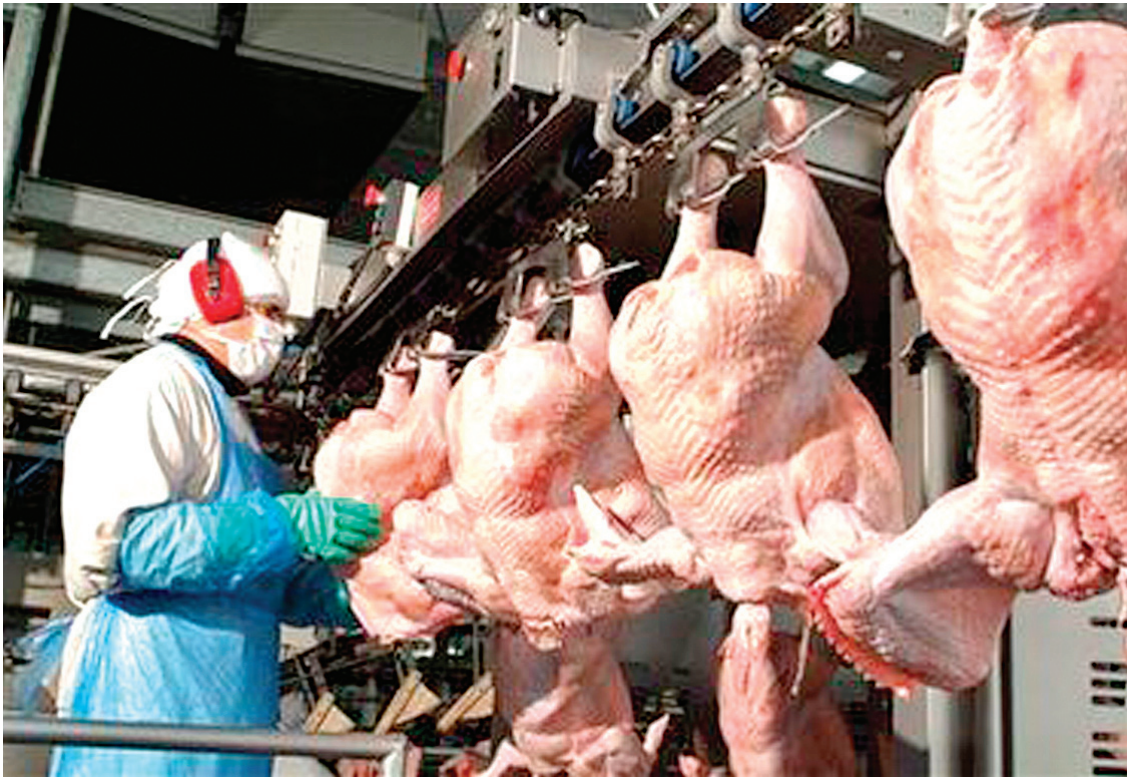


Foto de archivo de un trabajador en una planta procesadora de pavos en La Calera, Chile, 21 ago 2009. Chile llamó a la calma el viernes a la población luego que detectó la presencia de la influenza H1N1 en pavos, los primeros casos en el mundo de la temida gripe que hasta ahora sólo había infectado a humanos y cerdos. REUTERS/Sopraval/Handout

de la influenza H1N1 en dos granjas productoras de pavos en la región de la costa central de Valparaíso, vecina a la capital chilena. El ISP dijo que los resultados del análisis genético completo del virus que infectó a los pavos estará disponible la próxima semana. Las dos plantas productoras de pavos afectadas por el virus se encuentran en cuarentena predial y la autoridad sanitaria aseguró que no existe evidencia de la enfermedad en el resto del territorio chileno. Pese a la detección del virus en pavos, el ISP reafirmó que no existe riesgo en el consumo de alimentación de carne de estas aves.

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